

CLAIMS:

1. A method of controlling data flow in a telecommunications network in which a base station communicates with a mobile station using a plurality of packet data flows, the packet data flows having respective data flow rates, wherein the method comprises controlling data flow through the network by controlling the data flow rate of each packet data flow, an overall data flow rate to the mobile station and a data flow rate for each base station.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet data flow is controlled in dependence upon a quality of service level associated therewith.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet data flows are channelled through respective buffers which are operable to receive, store and output data from the associated packet data flows, the packet data flows being controlled such that data output from the buffers is dependant upon the quality of service level for the packet data flow concerned.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the packet data flows are packet flow contexts (PFCs).
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the data flow for a base station is a BVCI connection (BSSGP virtual connection identifier).
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the network is a GPRS network.
7. A telecommunications network comprising a base station which is operable to communicate with a mobile station using a plurality of packet data flows associated with the mobile station, each packet data flow having a data flow rate, wherein the base station is operable to control data flow to a mobile station by controlling the data flow rates of the packet data flows associated with the mobile station concerned.

8. A network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packet data flow is controlled in dependence upon a quality of service level associated therewith.

5 9. A network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packet data flows are channelled through respective buffers which are operable to receive, store and output data from the associated packet data flows, the packet data flows being controlled such that data output from the buffer is dependent upon the quality of service  
10 level for the packet data flow concerned.

10. A network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the packet data flows are packet data flow contexts.

15 11. A network as claimed in claim 10, wherein the packet data flow for a base station is a BVCI connection.

12. A network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the network is a GPRS network.

20 13. A base station apparatus for use in a telecommunications network, the base station apparatus including a data flow control unit which is operable to control packet data flow communication with a mobile station by controlling the data flow rates of packet data flows associated with the mobile station  
25 concerned.